7. *Pachydermata.* In the elephant the average-sized corpuscles appear to be $\frac{1}{2700}$th of an inch in diameter, which is larger than any at present known in the mammalia. But to show how little relation there is between the size of the animal and that of its blood disks, the author mentions that they are smaller in the horse than in the mouse; and suggests that those who have the opportunity should examine the blood of the larger *Cetacea*,—a hint which we hope will not be lost to zoologists residing near the sea coast either at home or in the colonies. In the rhinoceros the blood corpuscles appear to be about $\frac{1}{4000}$th of an inch in diameter, and they are of much the same size in the pig and in the peccary.

8. *Ruminantia.* It is in this order that the most novel and interesting results were obtained. The blood corpuscles of the goat were the smallest known to physiologists before the publication of the author's observations; but in the genus *Moschus*, as it appears from his examination of the blood of the Napu musk deer (see Dublin Medical Press, Nov. 1839, and Annals of Natural History, Dec. 1839), the particles are singularly minute and yet very regular in size and definite in form. He fixes their most common diameter at $\frac{1}{13000}$th of an inch. In the *Vicugna* and *Guanaco* he shows that the blood disks have a very distinct oval shape, as M. Mandl had previously observed in the dromedary and paco. In Reeves's Muntjac and some other species of the genus *Cervus*, besides many of the common circular disks, the author announces the existence of certain oblong corpuscles of very peculiar appearance and forms, generally lunated or crescentic, with acutely pointed ends, but altogether singularly variable in shape.

Genera et Species Staphylinorum Insectorum Coleopterorum familiæ. Auctore Guil. F. Erichson, &c. &c. Pars prior, accedunt tab. æn. 3. pp. 400. 8vo. Berol. 1839.

The above is the title of an elaborate work executed by Dr. Erichson upon the obscure family of the *Staphylini*. We much rejoice that this difficult task has fallen into such able hands, the careful accuracy of his previous works being a sure guarantee for the successful accomplishment of the present. Since the publication of the monographs of Gravenhorst at the commencement of this century, the most extensive discussion of the family is the abridgement of Mr. Kirby's incorporated by Mr. Stephens in his 'Illustrations of British Entomology,' and we much regret to observe that Dr. Erichson should not have sufficiently controlled national prejudices to do justice to his British fellow-labourers, who notwithstanding the many imperfections of their work, certainly deserve more attention than

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Dr. E. has chosen to bestow upon them. The consequence of this will be that very many of the names that Dr. E. has imposed must upon the further elaboration of the family fall into synonyms by those very laws of priority to which in some of his preceding works he has so inflexibly adhered by restoring Fabrician names, upon his consultation of the Fabrician cabinet, to insects which had been renamed subsequently by others owing to the imperfection of the original Fabrician diagnostics. This manifestly evinces very unscientific caprice; for surely the characters in Stephens's work are *never less* characteristic than those in Fabricius, and he therefore has an equal claim to the priority which his date of publication gives him. But time and common justice will set this affair to rights. We cannot here go into a detailed examination of the work before us. It will suffice to observe that a second part is to complete it, which was promised to have been published ere this,—and that it embraces all the *Staphylini*, exotic as well as European. The generic and specific characters are very carefully drawn, and the former aided by figures of the trophi, and in a few instances of the insects themselves. The work as far as yet published comprises an introductory generalization upon their natural characters, affinities, external structure, internal structure, metamorphoses, habits of life, geographical distribution, history of their systematic arrangement, and this is followed by the author's distribution into eleven tribes, viz. 1. Aleocharini; 2. Tachyporini; 3. Staphylinini; 4. Pæderini; 5. Pinophilini; 6. Stenini; 7. Oxytelini; 8. Piestini; 9. Phlæocharini; 10. Omalini; 11. Proteinini. A tabulation follows of the genera comprised in these tribes, and this is succeeded by the body of the work, and the portion now published includes the first two tribes and a part of the third: on its completion we shall enter more into detail upon the subject.

The Petrified Insects of Solenhofen, described by Professor Germar of Halle, with Three Lithographic Plates. In the Nova Acta Physico-Medica Academiæ Cæs. Leopol. Carol. Naturæ Curiosorum. Vol. XIX. Pt. I.

The learned Professor, whose labours in entomology the lovers of sound science can well appreciate, gives us here an account of 18 insects discovered in the limestone formation of Solenhofen. He had previously described 25 from the lignite of Rod and Arzberg in the Seven Mountains on the Rhine and of Bayreuth. The paper is accompanied by twenty lithographic figures, which greatly assist the descriptions, and indeed without which the latter would be al-

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